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Other important mineral resources are phosphorite and apatite deposits in the Kola Peninsula and along the Vyatka-Kama divide, oil shale in the Volga Region and Leningrad Oblast, natural gas near Saratov, peat and building materials in many sections of the European part of the Russian SFSR. In the Urals, in addition to petroleum and coal, potash, salt, and copper are found on the western slopes, iron, nickel, chrome, and platinum in the central ranges, and magnetite iron ore, copper, zinc, bauxite, and precious stones on the eastern slopes. In addition to coal, gold abounds in the Asiatic portion, in the Lena River basin and along the Kolyma River, and there are important tin deposits in Eastern Siberia, as well as lead, silver, and graphite.

The population of the Russian SFSR amounts to about 111 millions. The greatest population density occurs in the black-earth belt of the European section and in the regions of century-old settlement, including the watershed between the upper Volga and the Oka, the cradle of the Muscovite state, and the districts adjoining the northwestern lakes, Il'men' and Peipus (Chudskoye), and the upper course and left affluents of the Dnieper River. In these areas the concentration reaches 125 to 150 per square mile and as much as 250 and higher in the Moscow area. In the black-earth region of Siberia the density decreases to 60–90 persons per square mile. North of this belt the population rapidly decreases to 10–25 per square mile in the European North and as little as one person for every 2 square miles in the taiga of Siberia. Only in the valleys of the northern rivers (Northern Dvina, Pechora, Ob', Yenisey, Lena, with the Aldan and the Vilyuy, Yana, Indigirka, and Kolyma) does the population density rise to about 25 per square mile. The urban population is distributed mainly throughout the European part of the Russian SFSR: between the Volga and the Oka rivers, on the Baltic Sea and the Volga, and in the industrial Urals. The Siberian cities extend along the Trans-Siberian Railroad and lie usually at its intersection with the principal Siberian rivers. A great urban concentration has taken place in connection with the industrial development of the Kuznetsk Basin.

The Russians are the basic national element of the Russian SFSR and number about three fourths of the total population. They live principally in the black-earth belt, mixed forest, and taiga of the European section. The great number of minorities are found mainly along the middle Volga, on the western slopes of the Urals, on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus, and in the mountainous sections of Western